



Community and Economic Development  
Environmental Health Division

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**REQUIREMENTS FOR NEW PUBLIC WELLS**

**1. Permit Application**

Application for an amended or new permit must be made as required by Section 116550, Article 7, Chapter 4, Part 12, Division 104, of the California Health and Safety Code. Included with this letter is a permit application and instructions that should be used. Return the completed application, along with the information required in Items 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 (if available) to the Environmental Health Division.

*For water systems serving fewer than 200 connections:* a permit application fee must be submitted with the application for an amendment of a domestic water supply permit due to an addition or modification of the source of supply. Please make checks payable to the Madera County Environmental Health Division. \*Due to fee changes and updates, call our office for the most current permitting fees.

**2. Plans and Specifications**

Plans and specifications must be submitted to the Environmental Health Division. All new wells are to be drilled and constructed as per the Department of Water Resources (DWR) California Water Well Standards Bulletin 74-81, its supplement Bulletin 74-90 and the Madera County Code Title 13. The California Water Well Standards Bulletin 74-90 requires a separation of domestic water supply wells from potential sources of contamination as follows:

<b>Potential Pollution or Contamination Source</b>	<b>*Minimum Horizontal Separation Distance Between Well and Known or Potential Source</b>
Any sewer line (sanitary, industrial, or storm; main or lateral)	50 feet
Watertight septic tank or subsurface sewage leaching field	100 feet
Cesspool or seepage pit	150 feet
Recycled Water Use Area	50-150 feet depending on level of treatment of recycled water
Animal or fowl enclosure	100 feet

\*The above separation distances are for wells with adequate annular seals drilled in dry upper unconsolidated formations that are less permeable than sand. Wells drilled in fractured rock formations need to have much greater separation distances.

All wells shall be plumbed and equipped with proper electrical hookups at the well site to allow for the installation of emergency disinfection equipment in case of a bacteriological water quality failure. In addition, all wells must be equipped with a production meter and flush to waste facilities.

### 3. **Drinking Water Source Assessment Requirements**

As of April 1, 1999, all new sources must have an assessment completed as part of the permitting process. This assessment must be conducted in accordance with the Department's Drinking Water Source Assessment and Protection Program (DWSAP). The assessment must include the following:

- A ***Delineation*** of protection areas/zones around the well (2 year, 5 year and 10 year time of travel).
- An ***Inventory*** of Possible Contaminating Activities (PCAs) within the identified protection areas/zones.
- A ***Vulnerability Assessment*** to identify the PCAs to which the source is most vulnerable.

To obtain detailed information on the procedures to complete a source assessment, you may access the State Water Resources Control Board-Division of Drinking Water website at:

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking\\_water/certlic/drinkingwater/DWSAP.html](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/DWSAP.html)

### 4. **DWR Well Completion Report**

Section 13751 of Chapter 10 of Division 7 of the Water Code requires that any person who digs, bores, or drills a water well, cathodic protection well, or a monitoring well, or abandons or destroys any such well, or who deepens or re-perforates any such well shall file with the Department of Water Resources (DWR) a report of completion (Well Completion Report) of such well within 30 days after its construction or alteration has been completed. The report shall be made on forms furnished by DWR. A Well Completion Report is a document completed by the well driller at the time of construction. The Report includes the following information: owner, location, proposed use, equipment employed in the construction of the well, gravel pack, casing material and diameter, perforations, well seal, water levels, well tests, well log, date drilled and the name of the well driller. A copy of the Well Completion Report must also be submitted to Environmental Health Division after the well has been drilled.

### 5. **CEQA Clearance**

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documentation is required. A Notice of Determination must be included with the permit application if the well is for a water system owned by a public agency. All environmental documents must be routed through the State Clearinghouse (SCH) and be assigned a SCH Number before the Division will grant permission to put the new source online.

Privately owned water companies, including mutual water companies and homeowners associations can contact the Madera County Planning Division for further information to act as the lead agency for CEQA clearance.

Madera County Planning Division:  
559-675-7821

Failure to comply with the CEQA requirements will cause a delay in the Division granting permission to use the new source in the water system.

**6. Source Capacity Information**

Sufficient pump test information must be submitted that demonstrates the capacity of the source on a sustained basis.

**7. Well Topographic Coordinates**

At the time of an annular seal inspection of the well, The Division will determine the topographic coordinates for each source. The coordinates (latitude and longitude) in degrees, minutes and seconds may be determined from a Global Positioning System or from a U.S. Geological Survey Quad sheet.

**8. Water Quality Reports**

Prior to placing a new well into service, it must be determined whether the well water meets the State's drinking water quality standards. To make this determination the water must be analyzed for:

- (a) *Bacteriological Quality*
- (b) *General Mineral, General Physical, and Inorganic Chemicals* – See the attached Water Quality Monitoring Schedule.
- (c) *Volatile Organic Chemicals* – The utility must monitor for **four consecutive quarters or three consecutive years** initially and then as shown in the attached Water Quality Monitoring Schedule.
- (d) *Synthetic Organic Chemicals* - The utility must monitor for **four consecutive quarters or three consecutive years** initially and as shown in the attached Water Quality Monitoring Schedule.
- (e) *First of four consecutive quarters of radiochemical monitoring* - See the attached Water Quality Monitoring Schedule.

**9. Well Data Sheets**

The attached Well Data Sheet needs to include information about the pump and motor as well as a summary of the Well Completion Report and location of the well.

**10. Inspections**

- (a) Site Inspection: Once a site has been selected for the proposed well, contact The Division so that a site inspection can be performed to determine if the location will be suitable.
- (b) Well Inspection: After the well has been drilled, the pump and other equipment installed, and before the well is added to the system, a member of the Division staff must complete a field inspection of the well.

A well is not to discharge into the water distribution system until the above documents have been submitted to the Division and a field inspection of the well installation has been made.

If you have any questions regarding any of the above requirements, please contact the Environmental Health Division at 559-675-7823 ext 4.

## **Attachments**

Permit Application and Instructions  
Water Quality Monitoring Schedule  
Well Data Sheet